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June 2, 1947

The Honorable Chan Gurney, Chairman
Senate Armed Forces Committee
The Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Gurney:

Document No. 59
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determined that
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interest that must remain
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Authority: HR 70-2
☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest

You will recall I called on you two weeks ago
today to discuss that section of the Unification Bill dealing with
the Central Intelligence Agency. During the war I served as

 I left
with you a memorandum which I prepared after receiving a letter from
you, asking if I would appear before your Committee.

To refresh your memory the three points that I raised with
you at the time of our meeting two weeks were:

1. That the Central Intelligence Agency should
be headed by a civilian;
2. That the Agency should have its own
independent budget;
3. That the Director should report to an
individual, viz., a Secretary of Defense,
and not to a Committee.

I also discussed this matter with Senator Saltonstall, and
I have had several talks with the Senator since my meeting with you.
On Memorial Day Admiral Hillenkoetter came to Philadelphia to see me
to get my views on the subject. I believe he was directed to do
this by either you or Senator Saltonstall, for which I am grateful
as I feel we had a very satisfactory meeting of minds. I am happy
to report that Admiral Hillenkoetter is in entire accord with the
three main points that I raised with you, and referred to above.

He asked if I had any objection to a Director being
appointed who was a Naval officer or an Army officer, provided that
upon accepting the appointment, such officer would resign from the
service and forego all his rights. I told him that I had no
objection whatsoever, provided that the officer appointed would
definitely resign for all time from the service, and would look
upon it as a career job and not as a stepping-stone or another tour
of duty.

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The Honorable Chan Gurney

I am writing to ask when the Bill comes up for final passage on Wednesday that the part dealing with the Director of a Central Intelligence Agency be changed to read "that he shall be a civilian" and not have the passage read "He shall be a civilian or a Naval or an Army officer".

Admiral Hillenkoetter tells me that he is completely in accord with this point of view, and that he personally is prepared (if your Bill goes through and he is offered the position as Director of the new Central Intelligence Agency) to resign from the service. He further stated that he felt this was necessary to assure continuity and to carry out the job as a Director in the best interests of our country. On the telephone this morning Hillenkoetter stated that he planned to see you between now and Wednesday, and tell you that he agreed fully with [] and me on the above points.

I sincerely trust that the Committee's proposed Bill to be offered on the floor Wednesday can be modified in this respect.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

[]

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